

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0909

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: PRC RADICALS APPEAR DETERMINED TO WIDEN PURGE

REF: HONG KONG 5621

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: IN AN ARTICLE TAKING UP THE ENTIRE FRONT PAGE OF THE MAY 18 KUANGMING DAILY, LIANG HSIAO (A PSEUDONYM ASSOCIATED WITH PEKING AND TSINGHUA ANIVERSITIES) INTENSIFIES AND WIDENS THE ATTACK ON PURPORTED BOURGEOISIE IN THE COMMUNIST LARTY. THE ARTICLE, NOT YET CARRIED BY PEOPLE'S DAILY NOR TO OUR KNOWLEDGE BROADCAST, COMES ACROSS AS A MORE RADICAL VERSION OF THE MAY 16 ARTICLE ISSUED JOINTLT BY THE PEOLLE'S DAILY, RED FLAG, AND THE LIBERATION ARMY DAILY (REFTEL). IT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN AN EARLY DRAFT SUBMITTED FOR THE JOINT ARTICLE. IN ANY CASE IT, IN COMMON WITH ANOTHER LIANG HSIAO ARTICLE IN THE MAY 18 PEOPLE'S DAILY (TEXTED BY FBIS), LEAVES LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE "RADICALS" INTEND TO PRESS FOR A WINDEND PURGE. IN ONE SECTION THE DISCUSSION SUGGESTS THE TARGETS WOULD INLCLUDE SOME LEADERS OF ADVANCED AGE, BUT ITS CRITICISM OF THE PURSUIT OF MATERIAL COMFORT COULD TAKE IN A GREAT MANY PRC OFFICIALS INDEED.

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END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

1. IN CONTRAST TO THE JOINT PEOPLE'S

DAILY, RED FLAG, AND LIBERATION ARMY DAILY ARTICLE PUBLISHED TWO DAYS BEFORE, WHICH SPENT CONSIDERABLY TIME REHASHING OLD CHARGES AGAINST TENG AND SEEMED TO LIMIT MOST OF ITS CRITICISM TO HIM, LIANG HSIAO IN THIS ARTICLE SYSTEMATICALLY REFERS TO "PEOPLE LIKE" TENG HSIAO-PING (YI-LEI) AND TO THE SUPPORT TENG RECEIVED IN CARRYING OUT HIS SCHEMES. AS IF TO POINT UP THE CONTRAST WITH THE JOINT ARTICLE, THE AUTHOR SUPPLIES THE CONTINUATION, AS FOLLOWS, OF A QUOTE FROM THE 1966 CIRCULAR THAT WAS OMITTED FROM THE JOINT ARTICLE: "SOME OF THEM (THE BOURGEOIS REPRESENTATIVES) WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN THROUGH, OTHERS WE HAVE NOT. SOME ARE STILL TRUSTED BY US AND ARE BEING TRAINED AS OUR SUCCESSORS, PERSONS LIKE KHRUSHCHEV FOR EXAMPLE, WHO ARE NOW NESTLING BESIDE US. PARTY MEMBERS AT ALL LEVELS MUST PAY FULL ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER." AFTER BRIEF COMMENT IT REPEATS THIS LAST SENTENCE FOR EMPHASIS.

3. ACCORDING TO THE AUTHOR, THE GREAT DANGER OF THESE BOURGEOISIE IN THE PARTY IS THAT THEY WEAR THE GARB OF "COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS," "LEADING CADRES," AND "OLD REVOLUTIONARIES" AND CARRY OUT THEIR ACTIVITIES UNDER THE BANNER OF MARXISM AND IN THE NAME OF THE PARTY. THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE SAID TO BE VERY DECEPTIVE AND THE AUTHOR CONCEDES THE COMPLEXITY OF THE STRUGGLE, AS A "PROCESS" IS NEEDED TO FIND THEM OUT. LIANG HSIAO LEAVES NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO SUPPORTED TENG HSIAO-PING LAST YEAR--BOURGEOISIE AND CLASS ENEMIES WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE PARTY WHO FLOCKED TO HIM LIKE "FLIES GATHERING ON FILTH."

4. LIANG HSIAO APPEARS TO ARGUE AGAINST RESTRAINTS ON FERRETING OUT SUPPORTERS OF TENG WHO REMAIN IN THEIR POSTS. HE GOES ON AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT THE "THREE SAFEGUARDS" PUT FORWARD BY LIN BIAO AND COMPANY (AT THE TIME LINE WAS BRINGING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION UNDER CONTROL)-- TO "SAFEGUARD OFFICIAL POST." "SAFEGUARD PROPERTY," AND "SAFEGUARD LIFE". THESE "CAN BE SAID TO BE THE COMMON LIVING CREDO OF REVISIONIST HIGH OFFICIALS," LEADING THEM TO RESTRAIN AND OPPRESS THE MASSES, PROMOTE BOURGEOIS RIGHTS, AND OPPOSE THE SPIRIT OF FEARING NEITHER HARDSHIP NOR DEATH. UNDER "SAFEGUARDING

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LIFE" HE INCLUDES THEIR BUILDING "COZY NESTS" AND "SEARCHING EVERYWHERE FOR "AN ELIXIR TO PROLONG LIFE." THIS LAST ALLUSION MAY NOT BE LITERAL, BUT WE SUSPECT MANY CHINESE WILL TAKE IT LITERALLY AND SUPPLY THE NAMES OF ELDERLY LEADERS (OTHER, OF COURSE, THAN CHAIRMAN MAO).

5. AS ONE WOULD EXPECT, LIANG HSIAO SAYS THE OPPOSITION IS WEAK AND CALLS FOR CONTINUED STRUGGLE.

6. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE MAY VERY WELL HAVE BEEN ORIGINALLY INTENDED BY THE RADICALS AS THE JOINT ARTICLE CARRIED ON MAY 16. THE TWO ARTICLES ARE APPROXIMATELY THE SAME LENGTH AND CARRY THE SAME SUBTITLE "IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAY 16, 1966, CIRCULAR OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA." SEVERAL PASSAGES FROM IT ARE IDENTICAL WITH OR ONLY SLIGHTLY CHANGED FROM THE JOINT ARTICLE. PERHAPS ITS PRIMARY THRUST OF WIDENING THE PURGE WAS TOO MUCH FOR THE EDITORS OF THE LIBERATION ARMY DAILY TO SWALLOW.
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